REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 10, 2005. Claims 1 to 19, 21 to 26 and 28 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 21, 23, 26, 28 to 34 are independent.

The abstract was objected to as containing improper language, being in improper format, and containing text other than the Abstract. The Abstract has been replaced herein and is believed to be in acceptable form. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

Claims 26 and 28 to 34 were objected to because it was allegedly unclear as to whether they were dependent, independent or duplicates. Applicants have revised each claim into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1 to 19, 21 to 26 and 28 to 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,329 (Koppich). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral with a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral. The method includes the steps of obtaining a user identification data item, determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, and determining, as a function of the user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from the user.

In contrast, Koppich discloses software architecture for printing to a home printer via a cable television communication network. A client, executing at the remote internet-based site that originates the print job, transmits the print job to a printer attached to a home set top box. This type of printing is termed "push printing" by Koppich (col. 18). A local entity, at the cable head end, maintains a directory of user profiles, including user identification and user preferences (e.g., policy data) and blocking filters specifying the filtering to be applied to print jobs received from an external source.

Examples of such print jobs described in Koppich include merchant-initiated print jobs from remote-internet sites. The merchant is able to specify parameters for the print job. At the cable head end on the client side, the print job can be discarded if the print job does not meet the pre-specified filtering criteria. On the contrary, the print job is executed on the client printer when the print job meets such criteria.

In the embodiments described in Koppich, there is no disclosure of a configuration profile related to the peripheral device, i.e., a profile that defines various physical results (e.g., black and white or color printing). Furthermore, there is no teaching of any possibility for the merchant to choose between various configuration profiles. Nor is there any teaching of determining a configuration profile applicable for configuring a peripheral device as a function of user characteristics. In fact, a merchant who initiates a print job can only access a given configuration profile, and this results in either printing or not printing when prespecified filtering criteria are not met.

Thus, the merchant has no influence on the configuration profile of the peripheral device. Moreover, Koppich does not disclose the steps of obtaining a user identification data item and determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item.

In contrast, in the present invention, a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral (e.g., a printer) is selected according to the user who requests the use of the peripheral. In particular, the level of service subscribed by the user or his privilege determines the type of configuration profile to which he is entitled. In this respect, a configuration profile represents a set of configuration parameters of the peripheral. A set of fixed values of these parameters defines a particular configuration of the peripheral, which could be defined by parameters, e.g., for a printer black and white or color printing, print quality, etc.

In other aspects of the present invention, several profiles and levels of service associated are predefined, and users are related to such levels of service. To enable this, a client device further includes a configuration request unit to send a request to configure a peripheral, a user identity memory to store the user identification and a configuration update unit for modifying the current configuration associated with the configuration profile. A server device comprises a configuration manager associated with two tables (a configuration table and a user table) and a peripheral manager.

As Koppich fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of determining, as a function of user characteristics, a configuration profile applicable for configuring an operating mode of a peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user, Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 31 and 32 are directed to methods of configuring an electronic document processing peripheral in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Applicants submit that the discussion from above in support of Claim 1 apply equally to Claims 31 and 32. Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended Claims 31 and 32 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

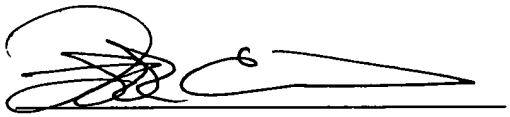
Claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 33 and 34 are directed to devices that implement the method of Claim 1 and further include various other features. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 33 and 34 are now also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims as discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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